



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

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State students outperform nation on SAT

Preliminary Advanced Placement data shows strong growth and performance

MADISON—Wisconsin students outperformed students nationally on both the SAT and Advanced Placement tests, an achievement State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster called evidence of strong academic programming in Wisconsin schools.

On the SAT college admissions tests, 4,012 of Wisconsin's 2006 public and private school graduates scored an average 82 points above students nationally. The critical reading score was 588 in Wisconsin, compared to 503 nationally. Mathematics was 600 points in Wisconsin and 518 for the nation. In writing, Wisconsin scored 577 compared to 497 for the nation.

2006 SAT Scores

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Wisconsin	588	600	577
Nation	503	518	497

Preliminary data on the Advanced Placement (AP) program showed Wisconsin's participation increased 9.8 percent from 2005, with 2,085 more students taking the exams. In 2006, 23,306 students took 36,842 exams. The 2006 passing rate for Wisconsin students was 68.9 percent, an increase from last year and higher than this year's national passing rate of 59.6 percent. Advanced Placement exams test students' college-level subject knowledge, generally related to Advanced Placement course work taken during high school. Earning a grade of 3, 4, or 5 on an AP exam is considered passing and eligible for college credit at most colleges and universities.

"Strong student achievement for both of these national testing programs shows that our schools and teachers have developed rigorous programs, which students pursue with parental and educator support in preparation for

2006 AP Program

All Schools

	Wisconsin	Nation
Number of AP Test-Takers	23,306	1,339,282
Number of Exams	36,842	2,312,611
Number of Grades 3-5	25,398	1,378,506
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	68.9	59.6

(more)

postsecondary studies,” Burmaster said. “On the AP exams, more students took more exams and achieved better results, and although Wisconsin has a small number of students taking the SAT, their scores were among the highest in the nation.”

Wisconsin’s SAT-takers tend to be higher achieving and wealthier than the national cohort. In Wisconsin, 55 percent of students came from families with incomes of \$50,000 or more compared to 25 percent nationally. Their scores were significantly higher than for students from low-income families. Wisconsin students had a mean grade point average of 3.69 compared to 3.33 nationally. Two-thirds of Wisconsin students report earning A’s compared to 39 percent nationally. Students of color represent 13.6 percent of SAT-takers in Wisconsin. Their SAT scores, while lower than that of white students, averaged 74 points higher than their national counterparts. On the AP exams, all student groups increased their participation.

“We must persist in our efforts to close the gap in achievement for economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and their peers,”

Burmaster said. “We expect that our grants and other initiatives will further increase AP participation among underserved and underrepresented student populations.”

The SAT, administered by the College Board, is scored on a scale of 200 to 800. The report for 2006 graduates was the first group to take the new SAT exams that included a writing test. The College Board’s “Advanced Placement Report to the Nation” provides a more extensive analysis of AP results, and typically is released in early February.

2006 SAT Scores by Ethnic Group

Wisconsin	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
All Schools				
African American	153	492	480	481
American Indian	18	569	590	558
Asian	269	559	628	560
Hispanic				
Mexican American	58	525	535	511
Puerto Rican	10	529	576	537
Other Hispanic	39	553	553	538
White	3,062	597	607	587
Other	109	566	568	545
No Response	294	589	594	578
Nation				
All Schools				
African American	150,643	434	429	428
American Indian	9,301	487	494	474
Asian	138,303	510	578	512
Hispanic				
Mexican American	64,019	454	465	452
Puerto Rican	19,008	459	456	448
Other Hispanic	68,734	458	463	450
White	825,921	527	536	519
Other	54,469	494	513	493
No Response	135,346	487	506	482

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NOTES: The Department of Public Instruction does not receive reports of SAT scores for schools or school districts. Please contact local school officials for score information. Tables that provide additional information about SAT and AP scores follow.

2006 SAT Results

Preliminary Advanced Placement - 2006

SAT Scores Over 10 Years

Wisconsin — All Schools

Year	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2005-06	4,012	588	600	577
2004-05	4,230	592	599	NA
2003-04	4,472	587	596	NA
2002-03	4,487	585	594	NA
2001-02	4,186	583	599	NA
2000-01	4,173	584	596	NA
1999-00	4,188	584	597	NA
1998-99	4,295	584	595	NA
1997-98	4,362	581	594	NA
1996-97	4,485	579	590	NA
Nation — All Schools				
Year	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2005-06	1,465,744	503	518	497
2004-05	1,475,623	508	520	NA
2003-04	1,419,007	508	518	NA
2002-03	1,406,324	507	519	NA
2001-02	1,327,831	504	516	NA
2000-01	1,276,320	506	514	NA
1999-00	1,260,278	505	514	NA
1998-99	1,220,130	505	511	NA
1997-98	1,172,779	505	512	NA
1996-97	1,127,021	505	511	NA

2006 SAT Scores by Family Income

Wisconsin All Schools	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Less than \$10,000	43	489	551	495
\$10,000 to \$20,000	84	513	540	512
\$20,000 to \$30,000	113	546	559	531
\$30,000 to \$40,000	176	567	568	550
\$40,000 to \$50,000	156	583	584	575
\$50,000 to \$60,000	224	586	595	571
\$60,000 to \$70,000	242	582	595	567
\$70,000 to \$80,000	280	598	606	585
\$80,000 to \$100,000	445	598	609	586
\$100,000 or more	1,025	605	619	597
No response	1,224	--	--	--
Nation All Schools	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Less than \$10,000	40,052	429	457	427
\$10,000 to \$20,000	66,457	445	465	440
\$20,000 to \$30,000	76,808	462	474	454
\$30,000 to \$40,000	90,134	478	488	470
\$40,000 to \$50,000	77,150	493	501	483
\$50,000 to \$60,000	83,393	500	509	490
\$60,000 to \$70,000	77,599	505	515	496
\$70,000 to \$80,000	81,819	511	521	502
\$80,000 to \$100,000	127,493	523	534	514
\$100,000 or more	225,869	549	564	543
No response	518,970	--	--	--

2006 SAT Scores by Type of School

Wisconsin	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Public	2,844	591	607	581
Religiously Affiliated	595	591	596	576
Independent	357	562	573	559
Other or Unknown	216	--	--	--
Nation	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Public	1,118,762	500	514	492
Religiously Affiliated	149,805	531	529	528
Independent	73,619	544	573	550
Other or Unknown	123,558	--	--	--

AP Participation by Racial/Ethnic Group

Wisconsin All Schools	Number of Test-Takers		Percent Increase in Participation
	2006	2005	
African American	480	427	12.4
American Indian	104	88	18.2
Asian	906	817	10.9
Hispanic*	652	491	32.8
White	20,124	18,638	8.0
Other	338	297	--
No Response	702	463	--
All Students	23,306	21,221	9.8

* Includes Mexican American, Puerto Rican, and Other Hispanic